

BERNSTORFF GETS NEW INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT SUBMARINES

Told to Inform U. S. That Germany's Assurances as to Future U-Boat Warfare Applies to Powerful Merchantmen.

SUBMARINE ATTACKED

Berlin Submits List of 20 Incidents of Armed British Merchant Vessels Firing on Submersibles—Germany Will Carry Out Her New Sea Order.

Washington, Feb. 27.—Germany has instructed Count von Bernstorff to inform the United States government that the assurances regarding the future conduct of submarine warfare, given in the Lusitania and Arabic cases, still are binding, but that they apply only to merchantmen of a peaceful character. The German government is understood to contend that armed merchantmen without regard to the nature of their armament, have shown themselves not to be peaceful, and therefore are subject to destruction without warning.

The instructions direct the German ambassador particularly to tell Secretary Lansing that British merchantmen armed ostensibly only for defense, have not assumed the character of peace traders, but that on the contrary they carry guns for the special purpose of attacking German submarines. To support this claim the Berlin foreign office has sent the ambassador, for presentation to the United States government, a list of at least 20 incidents where it is claimed British merchant ships have attacked submarines.

Confidential advices received from Berlin state that German and Austrian submarine commanders already have been given their new orders and that from midnight Tuesday they will be authorized to sink without warning all armed merchant ships of the enemies of Germany. It was said also that many of the submarine commanders probably had left their bases on voyages and that even should the United States request the postponing of the operation, the campaign it would be impossible to get word to many of the submarines.

It was stated, however, that so far neither the United States nor any other nation had asked a postponement. While Count von Bernstorff and other officials of the German embassy declined to discuss the instructions received from Berlin, it is believed the ambassador will present them orally to Secretary Lansing tomorrow. They will not, it was said, take the form of a note, unless Secretary Lansing desires it. Count von Bernstorff received his instructions in reply to a request from the United States for assurances regarding the conduct of submarine warfare in the future occasioned by the memorandum announcing the intention of Germany to sink armed ships without warning, which the administration considered to be inconsistent with the assurances previously given.

Regardless of the form in which the matter is presented to Secretary Lansing, the German ambassador will lay much stress upon the assurances regarding the armament of merchant ships which were given in the United States by Great Britain in a memorandum signed by Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, the British ambassador, on August 25, 1914. In this the British ambassador wrote that British vessels would never be used for purposes of attack, that they were merely peaceful and that they would never be used for any other purpose unless first fired upon and that they would never under any circumstances attack any vessel.

Germany claims that Great Britain has deliberately violated these assurances and Secretary Lansing will be so informed.

Ambassador von Bernstorff's attention also has been directed to the memorandum of September 19, 1914, to port authorities which define for their benefit defensive armament. In this document it is stated that "the presence of an armament and ammunition on board a merchant vessel creates the presumption that the armament is for defensive purposes, and the owners of vessels may overcome this presumption by evidence showing that the vessel carries armament solely for defensive purposes."

The Berlin government is said to realize that should it sink an armed ship, upon it will rest the burden of proof regarding guns, but will contend that upon the government coming to the ship would fall the burden of proof regarding the non-offensive character of the armament.

Ambassador von Bernstorff is understood to have been given no instructions to request from the United States a definition of what it considers under existing conditions may be considered defensive armament. He is understood, however, to have been prepared to discuss the question with Secretary Lansing should it be brought up during the coming conference.

The ambassador also is understood to have been instructed to call to the attention of Secretary Lansing the fact that French ships are not armed and that consequently the Berlin government considers the chances of difficulties with the United States as a result of the new policy as remote. The attitude of the state department probably will not be made known at once. Much depends upon the contents of the appendices to the German memorandum which are claimed to contain copies of alleged confidential instructions to masters of British merchantmen regarding warfare on submarines, state department officials have been awaiting the arrival of these appendices with much interest, and it has been admitted that they may have an important bearing upon the attitude of this government toward the entire question.

It is understood that the Austro-Hungarian embassy here has received allegedly somewhat similar to those sent from Berlin to Count von Bernstorff.

Berlin, Feb. 27.—The German government has issued a public statement announcing its attitude here concerning the report that Germany will postpone the putting into

"NO PEACE AT LOSS OF HONOR," DECLARES PRESIDENT WILSON

Chief Executive, in Response to Congressional Agitation for Action Warning Americans Off Armed Belligerent Vessels, Says He Cannot Consent to a Single Abridgment of the Rights of United States Citizens—To Yield Them Now Would Be Virtual Surrender of Independence.

Washington, Feb. 24.—President Wilson, at the end of two days of agitation in Congress for some action warning Americans off armed merchant ships of the European belligerents, to-night wrote Senator Stone, chairman of the Senate foreign relations committee, that he could not consent to any abridgment of the rights of American citizens in any respect.

"The honor and self-respect of the nation is involved," he said. "We cover peace, and shall preserve it at any cost but the loss of honor."

The president expressed hope that explanation of the declared intention of the central European powers to sink all armed merchant ships without warning would put a different aspect on a situation which now seemed to present insuperable obstacles.

"We have had no reason to question their good faith or their fidelity to their promises in the past," he added, "and I for one feel confident that we shall have none in the future."

The letter was in answer to one written late to-day by Senator Stone outlining the situation existing at the Capitol, where since yesterday morning persistent demands had been made for some action which might lessen the possibility of war between the United States and Germany. The president's statement will be repeated to-morrow morning to Speaker Clark, Representative Kitchin, majority leader, and Representative Flood, chairman of the House foreign affairs committee, who late to-day asked for an engagement in order to explain the position in which the House found itself in asking the president for a statement of the administration's views. The letter follows:

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER.

"My Dear Senator:

"I very warmly appreciate your kind and frank letter of to-day and feel that it calls for an equally frank reply.

"I do not doubt that I shall do everything in my power to keep the United States out of war. I think the country will feel no uneasiness about my course in that respect. Through many anxious months I have striven for that object, amidst difficulties more manifold than can have been apparent upon the surface; and so far I have succeeded. I do not doubt that I shall continue to succeed. The course which the central European powers have announced their intention of following in the future with regard to undersea warfare seems for the moment to threaten insuperable obstacles, but its apparent meaning is so manifestly inconsistent with explicit assurances recently given us by those powers with regard to their treatment of merchant vessels on the high seas that I must believe that explanations will presently emanate which will put a different aspect upon it. We have had no reason to question their good faith or their fidelity to their promises in the past, and I, for one, feel confident that we shall have none in the future."

"But I am sure that duty is clear. No nation, no group of nations, has the right while war is in progress to alter or disregard the principles which all nations have agreed upon in mitigation of the horrors and sufferings of war; and if the clear rights of American citizens should ever unhappily be infringed or denied by any such action, we should, it seems to me, have no choice as to what our own course should be.

"For my own part I cannot consent to any abridgment of the rights of American citizens in any respect. The honor and self-respect of the nation is involved. We cover peace, and shall preserve it at any cost but the loss of honor. To forbid our people to exer-

effect her announced intention to sink armed merchantmen without warning. The matter is said to be still under advisement.

CHARLIE CHAPLIN SIGNS MUTUAL CONTRACT

New York, Feb. 27.—It was learned last night that Charlie Chaplin had signed a contract with John T. Freuler, president of the Mutual Film Corporation, for his services in the movies for the coming year. The contract negotiations, which have been pending for more than a week, was signed yesterday.

The terms of the contract could not be learned, but it is said Mr. Chaplin's salary will be \$10,000 a week. He will receive a certain percentage of the earnings of the company. A new company will be formed to make the Chaplin films, which will be distributed through the Mutual. It is said the company will not bear the comedian's name and that he will not hold stock in it. Mr. Freuler, it is understood, will be the largest stockholder. One report had it that Mr. Chaplin's salary would be \$10,000 a week.

Ever since he came East several months ago a majority of the larger film companies have been dicker with the comedian for his services. His contract with Essanay, the company under whose direction he became famous, expired recently. It is said Essanay earned \$250,000 from the comedian in the last season, and that the company has a stock of unreleased films in reserve to release in case he signed with another firm.

ADJOURN HEARING.

Service Commission Will Take Up Central Power Hearing March 15.

Washington, Feb. 25.—The public service commission, which started a hearing in the Addison county court house Thursday morning in the petition of the Central Power company, which is seeking to obtain the right to go ahead with their \$1,000,000 project, held an evening session. Prof. Thomas E. Boyce of Middlebury gave a description of the property of the Battell estate, of which certain portions will be acquired to promote the power plant. Ex-President Ezra Brainerd of Middlebury College

also gave his rights for fear we might be called upon to vindicate them would be a deep humiliation indeed. It would be an implicit, all but an explicit, acquiescence in the violation of the rights of mankind everywhere and of whatever nation or allegiance. It would be a deliberate abdication of our hitherto proud position as spokesmen even amidst the turmoil of war for the law and the right. It would make everything this government has attempted and everything that it has achieved during this terrible struggle of nations meaningless and futile.

"It is important to reflect that if in this instance we allowed expediency to take the place of principle, the door would inevitably be opened to still further concessions. Once accept a single abatement of right and many other humiliations would certainly follow, and the whole fabric of international law which crumbles under our hands piece by piece. What we are contending for in this matter is of the very essence of the things that have made America a sovereign nation. She cannot yield them without conceding her own impotency as a nation and making virtual surrender of her independent position among the nations of the world."

"I am speaking, my dear senator, in deep solemnity, without heat, with a clear consciousness of the high responsibilities of my office, and as your sincere and devoted friend. If we should unhappily differ, we shall differ as friends; but where issues so momentous as those are involved we must, just because we are friends, speak our minds without reservation."

"FAITHFULLY YOURS,"

"WOODROW WILSON."

The president wrote his letter during the afternoon, shutting himself up in his study while congressional leaders vainly attempted to get him on the telephone to tell him of developments at the Capitol. He began to write after telephone conferences with cabinet members and other close advisers. His decision was to let all speculation over what the position of the government was, and to let Congress and the country know that the administration believed the United States had no choice but to stand behind the right of its citizens to the freedom of the seas.

SITUATION REALLY UNCHANGED.

At the State department to-day it was stated that in its international aspects the situation had not changed in the slightest degree for three or four days. Officials said nothing had been heard from Germany in response to the request of the United States for assurances that previous pledges given in the Lusitania and Arabic negotiations would not be nullified by the new campaign against armed ships.

Confidential advices from Berlin, however, have indicated that Germany would not be observed, but that they applied only to unarmed vessels, and would not extend to those carrying defensive armament properly may be. How far such a proposal would go toward altering the situation is said to depend largely on additional information as to how armed British merchantmen are said to have warred on German submarines, which now is on the way to Washington by mail.

Today's developments in Congress showed the administration leaders holding their lines against any such action as the president opposes. A canvass of the Senate disclosed sentiment in favor of President Wilson's position dominating. In the House the administration position was less certain, but the leaders were confident that a vote would show an overwhelming majority for upholding the president.

Introduced maps showing the country involved and explained them. Attorney Gleason then called H. G. Larrabee, an engineer, who spoke of the amount of power that could be obtained. At nine o'clock Wednesday the court adjourned, when the matter will again be taken up.

Advent Pastor Resigns.

Rutland, Feb. 25.—The Rev. George A. Osman, pastor of the Advent Christian church in this city, has resigned to-day. He has received a call to an Advent church at Los Angeles which was dedicated last September and which offers a much larger field of work than he now has. He has not yet decided to accept the western pastorate. Since Mr. Osman came to Rutland the church has paid \$1,300 in old indebtedness and made improvements costing \$1,500, all of which are paid for.

Held in \$2,000 Bail.

Middlebury, Feb. 25.—William Waite, in municipal court this morning charged with a criminal assault, was bound over to the June term of Addison county court in bail of \$2,000. Harvie S. Hill and Maude E. Scoville of Rochester, charged with adultery, pleaded guilty, the former being sentenced to not more than 18 months nor less than 15 months in the house of correction, and the latter not more than 12 nor less than 10 months at the same institution.

Burlington Bankruptcy.

Rutland, Feb. 25.—James J. Kennedy of Burlington, a second class liquor licensee, to-day filed a petition in bankruptcy with Clerk F. S. Platt of the United States court. His liabilities are \$1,250 and he has assets of \$50, with no exemptions. Burlington creditors include: Wilson & Gaul, \$37; Graham Wilson, \$90; Coleman Zeskind, \$19; John P. Madigan, \$5.

DOMESTIC BLISS.

Mrs. Neighbors—Do you and your husband live happily together?
Mrs. Enock—Sure. I'd just like to see my husband try not to live happily with me.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

DRIFTER BEFORE PROHIBITION VS LICENSE ARGUED AT MONTPELIER

We Should Keep Out of War, He Declares, at Sacrifice of Everything but Our Sense of Humanity and Justice.

ADDRESSES GRIDIRON CLUB

Speech Ordinarily Would Not Be Published, but Its Bearing on Present Situation of Foreign Relations Urges Members to Give It Publicity.

Washington, Feb. 25.—President Wilson told members and guests at a Gridiron club dinner last night that America ought to keep out of the European war "at the sacrifice of everything except this single thing upon which her character and her history are founded, her sense of humanity and justice."

The address was confidential, since the speeches at the dinners of the Gridiron club, composed of minor correspondents, are not reported. It was made public to-night, however, with the consent of the President and the club, because many of those who heard it urged that it should go to the country.

The President spoke of the nation's affairs with unusual gravity. His bearing, including several hundred members of Congress, government officials, business men and correspondents, were brought to their feet cheering when he concluded with these words:

"I would be just as much ashamed to be rash as I would be to be a coward. Valor is self-respect. Valor is circumspect. Valor strikes only when it is right to strike. Valor withholds itself from all small implications and entanglements and waits for the great opportunity when the sword will flash as if it carried the light of heaven upon its blade."

The President said, in part: "Your talk, Mr. Toastmaster, has been a great deal more candid for the presidency. It is not a new feeling on my part, but I cannot help feeling with a greater intensity than formerly that a man who seeks the presidency of the United States for anything that it will bring to him is an audacious fool. The responsibilities of the office ought to sober a man even before he approaches it. One of the difficulties of the office seldom appreciated, I dare say, is that it is very difficult to do nothing. So many people are talking, and particularly while so many people are talking in a way that obscures counsel and is entirely off the point."

"The point in national affairs, gentlemen, never lies along the lines of expediency. It always rests in the field of principle. The United States has not founded upon any principle of expediency. It was founded upon a profound principle of human liberty and of humanity, and whenever it bases its policy upon any other foundations than those it builds on the sand and not upon solid rock, I would a great deal rather know what they are talking about around quiet firesides all over this country than what they are talking about in the cloak rooms of Congress. I would a great deal rather know what the men on the trains and by the wayside and in the shops and on the farms are thinking about and saying to themselves than what they are saying in the halls of Congress. I would a great deal rather know what the men on the trains and by the wayside and in the shops and on the farms are thinking about and saying to themselves than what they are saying in the halls of Congress."

"Senator Harding was saying just now that we ought to try when we are a hundred million strong to act in the same simplicity of principle that our forefathers acted in when we were three million strong. Our forefathers were ready to stand everything for an idea, and that is the only way to win. The United States is the only nation in the world that has the infinite difficulty of public affairs, gentlemen, is not to discover the signs of the heaven and the directions of the wind, but to square the things you do by the not simple but complicated standards of justice. Justice has nothing to do with any temporary expediency. It is the only standard and grounded in the fundamental instincts of humanity."

"America ought to keep out of this war. She ought to keep out of this war at the sacrifice of everything except this single thing upon which her character and history are founded, her sense of humanity and justice. If she sacrifices to this war, she is sacrificing to the traditions which have made us proud to be Americans, and when we go about seeking safety at the expense of humanity then I for one will believe that I have always been mistaken in what I have conceived to be the spirit of American history."

"You never can tell your direction except by long measurements. You cannot establish a line by two posts, you have got to have three at least to know whether they are straight with anything and the longer your line the more certain your measurement. There is only one way in which to determine the future of the United States, and that is by looking back and seeing which way the lines ran which led up to the present moment of power and of opportunity. There is no doubt about that. There is no question what the roll of honor in America is. The roll of honor consists of the names of men who have squared their conduct by ideals of duty. There is no one else upon the roster; there is no one else whose name we care to remember when we measure things upon a national scale. And I wish that whenever an impulse to settle a thing some short way tempts us we might look at the door and take down some old stories of what American ideals and statesmen did in the past, and not let in any counsel that does not sound in the authentic voice of American tradition. Then we shall be certain what the lines of the future are, because we shall know who are steering by the lines of the past. We shall know that for temporary convenience, no temporary expediency, will lead us either to be rash or to be cowardly."

Joint Debate between Ex-Mayor of Belfast, Me., and the Rev. William Shaw, Pastor of M. E. Church.

WISHES TO BUILD PLANT.

Public Service Commission Hears Central Power Co. of Vermont.

Middlebury, Feb. 24.—The public service commission held a public meeting here to-day in the Addison county court house and the following commissioners were present: William R. Warner of Vergennes, Robert C. Bacon of Brattleboro and Walter A. Dutton of Hardwick. The hearing was held for the purpose of taking testimony relative to the petition of the Central Power company of Vermont, consisting of Charles H. Thompson, Benjamin A. Sumner, Dean K. Lullie, H. J. M. Jones of Montpelier, Alexander Gordon of Barre, Frank H. Stuart and Albert H. Stuart of Newton, Mass., for the purpose of getting permission to construct and maintain an electric power plant at East Middlebury on the Middlebury river and its tributaries. The company has a capital of \$1,000,000, which is divided into 10,000 shares at \$100.

The petitioners were represented by Attorneys E. M. Harvey and F. B. Thomas of Montpelier and Ira H. LaFleur of Middlebury. The Battell estate by James B. Donaway and Robert W. McCarroll of Middlebury and the Barre Power company by W. W. Stickney of Ludlow. There was also a large array of legal talent representing a number of different interests. The hearing will run into another day, as there are many witnesses yet to be examined. In the absence of Attorney-General H. G. Barber the State's interest was looked after by State Attorney Allen R. Sturtevant of Middlebury.

NORTHERN PACIFIC TRAIN HELD UP

Robbers Compel Engine Crew to Haul Detached Cars Into Mountain Forest.

Seattle, Feb. 24.—The Northern Pacific's eastbound North Coast Limited train was held up to-day a mile and a half east of Covington, 25 miles east of Seattle. The robbers uncoupled the baggage and mail cars and compelled the engine crew to haul the two cars up the track into a mountain forest.

A short time after the baggage, mail cars and engine disappeared passengers in the cars left standing on the track heard an explosion. It is supposed the robbers dynamited the express cars. Automobiles filled with deputy sheriffs were despatched from Seattle. The flagman, who reported the hold-up from Covington, said the bandits fired several shots at him as he ran down the track to give the alarm, but he escaped unhurt. The flagman ran back to Covington as soon as he learned the robbers' purpose, and was unable to give details of the robbery.

Pool Rooms Raided.

Bellevue Falls, Feb. 25.—Following repeated warnings to pool-room proprietors that they must not allow minors in their places of business Chief of Police W. S. Severance and Officer Angus Mackinnon visited the four pool-rooms in town last night and found minors in two of them without consent of their parents or guardians.

Before Judge T. E. O'Brien in municipal court to-day George Brown, a Turk, who conducts a pool-room on Westminster street, pleaded guilty to four offenses and was fined \$30 and costs of \$12.50. Constantinos Poulloukas, a Turk whose rooms are in the Gray block in the square, pleaded guilty to two offenses and was fined \$30 on each with costs of \$12.50. The hearing was paid. This afternoon a lifting machine, which was seized in a fruit store on Rockingham street last night, was ordered destroyed by Judge O'Brien.

A Middlebury Bankrupt.

Rutland, Feb. 24.—Harris Epstein of Middlebury, a shoemaker, to-day filed a petition in bankruptcy with Clerk F. S. Platt of the United States court. His liabilities are \$1,250 and he has assets of \$50, with no exemptions. Burlington creditors include: Wilson & Gaul, \$37; Graham Wilson, \$90; Coleman Zeskind, \$19; John P. Madigan, \$5.

NEW FIELDS ENTIRELY WELL.

A. H. Francis, Zenith, Kas., writes: "I had a severe pain in my back and could hardly move. I took about two-thirds of a 20-grain dose of Foley Kidney Pills and now feel entirely well. My kidneys are older men and women find these safe pills relieve sleep disturbing bladder ailments."—W. O'Sullivan.

12,431-TON SHIP SUNK IN CHANNEL; 147 LIVES LOST

Steamer Maloja Strikes Mine—The Empress of Fort William Going to Her Rescue Meets with Similar Fate.

DAY OF MARINE DISASTERS

Several of the Allies' Steamships Are Reported Blown Up by Drifting Mines and Others Have Been Sunk by German Submarines.

Dover, Feb. 17.—The steamship Maloja, 12,431-ton vessel belonging to the Peninsular and Oriental line, struck a mine and sank within half an hour two miles off Dover to-day. More than 40 persons were drowned or killed as a result of the accident. The Times estimates the dead at 147.

The Maloja left Tibury only yesterday for Bombay with mails, 119 passengers of all classes aboard and a crew numbering about 50, most of them lascars. Other passengers were to join the ship at Marseilles.

The steamer had just passed Admiralty Pier at Dover, and was opposite Shalvease Cliff, when an explosion shook her from end to end. She listed immediately to port. High seas were running, and the captain realizing that great damage had been done to the after part of his vessel tried to run her ashore, but the engine room was swamped and the ship became unmanageable.

The pilot of the vessel was observed and dozens of craft went all upped to her rescue. One of them, the British tanker Empress of Fort William, of 2,181 tons, struck another mine and sank nearby.

Aboard the Maloja everything possible was done to get the passengers and crew off. The boats had already been swung out before she struck, as a precaution against accident, and all those aboard had sufficient time to put on life belts.

Boat after boat and a number of rafts were sent away, but several persons leaped into the water and were picked up by the surrounding craft. It was at first thought that all had been saved, but later bodies were washed ashore, and their number was gradually added to during the day.

Owing to the fact that Dover is under strict military law it was possible to obtain only meagre details from those rescued. The captain said that both ships were crewed and behaved splendidly.

The passengers were for the most part British officials in the Indian service, the most prominent being Justice Oldfield of the Indian high court.

Only one of the crew of the Empress of Fort William was drowned. Up to midnight the bodies landed from the Maloja included eighteen men, eleven women and four children, in addition to eleven lascars. Among the dead is Mrs. McLeod, wife of General McLeod.

The Peninsular and Oriental Line steamship Maloja was an Australian mail boat and a sister ship of the Persia, which was torpedoed and sunk off the island of Crete December 29 last, with the loss of 326 lives.

The Maloja was last reported as having arrived at Marseilles January 31, bound for London from Sydney, New South Wales.

The steamship was 359 feet long and was built at Belfast in 1911.

The Empress of Fort William was formerly the Mount Stephen and was built at Newcastle in 1908. She was 250 feet long and was owned by the Empress Transportation company of Midland, Ltd.

London, Feb. 17.—The British steamship Suveir, from New York February 11 for Havre, has been abandoned at sea, according to a despatch to Lloyds from Inishtrahilly, Ireland. All the members of the crew are reported to have been taken off by another steamer.

London, Feb. 27, 1:28 p. m.—The steamship Birgit has been sunk. Seventeen survivors have been landed.

There are three small steamers of the name of Birgit according to shipping records, two Swedish and one Norwegian. The largest of the three is of 1,137 gross tonnage and flies the Swedish flag.

Flushing, via London, Feb. 27.—The passengers, crew and mails of the wrecked steamer Mecklenburg were taken off by the Holland-America liner Westerdijk.

The Zealand service has been provisionally suspended.

The Mecklenburg was 2,485 tons gross and was built at Glasgow in 1908. The vessel was 319 feet long.

Paris, Feb. 26, via London, Feb. 27.—An official announcement made by the French ministry of marine to-day regarding the sinking of the British ship Fastnet of 2,227 tons says the vessel was sent to the bottom by a submarine in the western Mediterranean. The crew of the steamship was rescued by a French cruiser.

The captain of the Fastnet reports that he saw the same submarine sink the Swedish steamer Tornhorn, the boats of which the undersea vessel towed away.

DRY REGARDLESS OF COST.

John Hendricks, a singular western character, awoke one morning to find himself wealthy through a rich mining strike. Soon he concluded to broaden his mind by travel, and decided to go to Europe. Boarding the ship, he singled out the captain and said: "Captain, if I understand the way this ship is constructed it's got several water-tight compartments." "Yes, sir," "Water's all on the outside—can't none get in now!" "No, sir," "Captain," said Hendricks, decidedly, "I want one of them compartments—I don't care what it costs extra!"—Argonaut.

SERIOUS CHARGE LODGED AGAINST MENDON VETERAN

Calvin Rich, 70, Accused of Stabbing a Young Lumberjack—Latter Now in Hospital.

DAY OF MARINE DISASTERS

Several of the Allies' Steamships Are Reported Blown Up by Drifting Mines and Others Have Been Sunk by German Submarines.

Dover, Feb. 17.—The steamship Maloja, 12,431-ton vessel belonging to the Peninsular and Oriental line, struck a mine and sank within half an hour two miles off Dover to-day. More than 40 persons were drowned or killed as a result of the accident. The Times estimates the dead at 147.

The Maloja left Tibury only yesterday for Bombay with mails, 119 passengers of all classes aboard and a crew numbering about 50, most of them lascars. Other passengers were to join the ship at Marseilles.

The steamer had just passed Admiralty Pier at Dover, and was opposite Shalvease Cliff, when an explosion shook her from end to end. She listed immediately to port. High seas were running, and the captain realizing that great damage had been done to the after part of his vessel tried to run her ashore, but the engine room was swamped and the ship became unmanageable.

The pilot of the vessel was observed and dozens of craft went all upped to her rescue. One of them, the British tanker Empress of Fort William, of 2,181 tons, struck another mine and sank nearby.

Aboard the Maloja everything possible was done to get the passengers and crew off. The boats had already been swung out before she struck, as a precaution against accident, and all those aboard had sufficient time to put on life belts.

Boat after boat and a number of rafts were sent away, but several persons leaped into the water and were picked up by the surrounding craft. It was at first thought that all had been saved, but later bodies were washed ashore, and their number was gradually added to during the day.

Owing to the fact that Dover is under strict military law it was possible to obtain only meagre details from those rescued. The captain said that both ships were crewed and behaved splendidly.

The passengers were for the most part British officials in the Indian service, the most prominent being Justice Oldfield of the Indian high court.

Only one of the crew of the Empress of Fort William was drowned. Up to midnight the bodies landed from the Maloja included eighteen men, eleven women and four children, in addition to eleven lascars. Among the dead is Mrs. McLeod, wife of General McLeod.

The Peninsular and Oriental Line steamship Maloja was an Australian mail boat and a sister ship of the Persia, which was torpedoed and sunk off the island of Crete December 29 last, with the loss of 326 lives.

The Maloja was last reported as having arrived at Marseilles January 31, bound for London from Sydney, New South Wales.

The steamship was 359 feet long and was built at Belfast in 1911.

The Empress of Fort William was formerly the Mount Stephen and was built at Newcastle in 1908. She was 250 feet long and was owned by the Empress Transportation company of Midland, Ltd.

London, Feb. 17.—The British steamship Suveir, from New York February 11 for Havre, has been abandoned at sea, according to a despatch to Lloyds from Inishtrahilly, Ireland. All the members of the crew are reported to have been taken off by another steamer.

London, Feb. 27, 1:28 p. m.—The steamship Birgit has been sunk. Seventeen survivors have been landed.